

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An audio signal processing apparatus adapted for delivering an audio signal to a speaker system ~~including, comprising:~~

at least two drive units ~~or more~~ which are divided or separated by frequency band[[,]]; and

~~the audio signal processing apparatus comprising:~~

filter means for processing the input audio signal on the basis of an inverse correction characteristic [[of]] corresponding to an overall impulse response of the speaker system, ~~in order to correct~~ the input audio signal being processed to compensate for a shift between phases of respective sound waves radiated from respective drive surfaces of the at least two drive units ~~or more~~ of the speaker system, the shift being caused by the relative physical locations of the respective drive surfaces.

~~thus to deliver, to the speaker system, an audio output signal which has been caused to undergo signal processing by the filter means.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least two drive units ~~or more are caused to be of the configuration in which~~ include a drive unit for reproducing a signal at a high frequency band and a drive unit for reproducing a signal at a low frequency band, and ~~are attached in the state where they are~~ coaxially disposed with respect to acoustic center.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the filter means ~~serves to realize correction characteristic of the impulse response by~~ is an FIR filter ~~to process the input audio signal.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An audio signal processing apparatus adapted for delivering an audio signal to a speaker system ~~including, comprising:~~

at least two drive units ~~or more~~ which are divided or separated by frequency band[.];

~~the audio signal processing apparatus comprising:~~ first filter means having [[an]] a predetermined arbitrary transmission characteristic ~~which has been determined in advance by measurement or calculation;~~ and

second filter means having an inverse correction characteristic [[of]] corresponding to an overall impulse response of the speaker system ~~in order to correct, the input audio signal being processed to compensate for a shift between phases of respective sound waves radiated from respective drive surfaces of the at least two drive units or more of the speaker system, the shift being caused by the relative physical locations of the respective drive surfaces.~~

~~thus to deliver, to the speaker system, an audio output signal from the second filter means.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the transmission characteristic ~~that~~ of the first filter means [[has]] is a frequency characteristic in which a group delay characteristic is constant.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the transmission characteristic ~~that~~ of the first filter means [[has]] is a characteristic for conducting a control such that sound image localization position in the case where an input audio signal is reproduced by plural speakers results in an arbitrary position.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the transmission characteristic ~~that~~ of the first filter means ~~[[has]]~~ is an impulse response characteristic of an arbitrary room.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the transmission characteristic ~~that~~ of the first filter means ~~[[has]]~~ is an impulse response characteristic of an electro-acoustic transducer.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~impulse response characteristic of an~~ the electro-acoustic transducer ~~which is transmission characteristic that the first filter means has~~ is a ~~impulse response characteristic~~ of speaker or headphone system.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~impulse response characteristic of an~~ the electro-acoustic transducer ~~which is transmission characteristic that the first filter means has~~ is a ~~impulse response characteristic~~ of record needle.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~impulse response characteristic of an~~ the electro-acoustic transducer ~~which is transmission characteristic that the first filter means has~~ is a ~~impulse response characteristic~~ of recording/reproducing device.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~impulse response characteristic of an~~ the electro-acoustic transducer ~~which~~

~~is transmission characteristic that the first filter means has~~ is an impulse response
~~characteristic of a frequency characteristic adding unit.~~

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~impulse response characteristic of an~~ the electro-acoustic transducer ~~which is transmission characteristic that the first filter means has~~ is ~~impulse response characteristic of~~ is an audio amplifier.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the first filter means ~~serves to add~~ adds, to the input audio signal, an impulse response characteristic which has been selectively switched among impulse response characteristics of plural kinds of electro-acoustic transducers.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the first filter means and the second filter means are ~~comprised of FIR filter~~ filters.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An audio signal reproducing system including:
a speaker system including at least two drive units ~~or more~~ which are divided or separated by frequency band; and

a signal processing unit comprising filter means for processing the input audio signal on the basis of an inverse correction characteristic ~~[[of]]~~ corresponding to an overall impulse response of the speaker system, ~~in order to correct~~ the input audio signal being processed to compensate for a shift between phases of respective sound waves radiated from respective

drive surfaces of the at least two drive units ~~or more~~ of the speaker system, the shift being caused by the relative physical locations of the respective drive surfaces.

~~whereby the signal processing unit delivers, to the speaker system, an audio output signal which has been caused to undergo signal processing by the filter means.~~

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An audio signal reproducing system including:

a speaker system including at least two drive units ~~or more~~ which are divided or separated by frequency band; [[and]]

a signal processing unit comprising first filter means having [[an]] a predetermined, arbitrary transmission characteristic; ~~which has been determined in advance by measurement or calculation~~, and second filter means having an inverse correction characteristic [[of]] corresponding to an overall impulse response of the speaker system, in order to correct the input audio signal being processed to compensate for a shift between phases of respective sound waves radiated from respective drive surfaces of the two drive units ~~or more~~ of the speaker system, the shift being caused by the relative physical locations of the respective drive surfaces.

~~whereby the signal processing unit delivers, to the speaker system, an audio output signal from the second filter means.~~